

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles September 2017

Worship

Sunday 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.
Holy Communion

Friendship Service
1st & 3rd Saturday 3:30 P.M.

Pastor

Rev. Russell Craig
(518) 369-7631

Deacon

Thomas Craig

Secretary

Madison Murray
(518) 456-1530

Music Director

Sharon Calka

Church Office (518) 456-1530

Closed Monday & Friday
Open 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

church@clcalbany.org
www.clcalbany.org

Message from the Pastor

Dear Saints of Christ,

I usually open my sermons with the words St. Paul uses at the beginning many of his letters: “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Since we are nearing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I thought you might like to read Martin Luther’s thoughts on these two beautiful words, “grace” and “peace”.

+Pastor Russ Craig

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Grace and peace – these two words embrace the whole of Christianity. Grace forgives sins and peace stills the conscience. The two devils who plague us are sin and conscience, the power of the Law and the sting of sin (1 Corinthians 15:56). But Christ has conquered these two monsters and trodden them underfoot, both in this age and in the age to come. The world does not know this; therefore it cannot teach anything sure about how to overcome sin, conscience and death. Only Christians have this kinds of teaching and are equipped and armed with it, so that they can overcome sin, despair, and eternal death. It is a teaching that is given only by God; it does not proceed from free will, nor was it invented by human reason or wisdom.

These two words, “grace” and “peace”, contain a summary of all of Christianity. Grace contains the forgiveness of sins, a joyful peace, and a quiet conscience. But peace is impossible unless sin has first been forgiven, for the Law accuses and terrifies the conscience on account of sin. And the sin that the conscience feels cannot be removed by pilgrimages, vigils, labors, efforts, vows, or any other works; in fact, sin is increased by works. The more we work and sweat to extricate ourselves from sin, the worse off we are. For there is no way to remove sin except by grace ... Because the world does not understand this doctrine, it neither can nor will tolerate it. It brags about free will, about our powers, about our works – all these as means by which to earn and attain grace and peace, that is, forgiveness of sins and a joyful conscience. But conscience cannot be quiet and joyful unless it has peace though this grace, that is, through the forgiveness of sins promised in Christ.

... Therefore your bones and mine will know no rest until we hear the Word of grace and cling to it firmly and faithfully.

+ Martin Luther

(from *We Pray*, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, 2008, 2010)

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP SERVICE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 & 16 (3:30 P.M.)

These relaxed services are designed for special needs individuals and their caregivers – *yet all who attend have found the experience enjoyable and spirit-lifting regardless of abilities.* Everyone is welcome – as a volunteer or worshipper. Contact: Deacon Tom Craig.

SUPPORT LWML WITH YOUR MITES

Save your pennies! Christ Lutheran Women have distributed “mite boxes” to collect donations to support the work of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. Boxes may be found in the narthex.

CHRIST LUTHERAN WOMEN MEET MONTHLY

All women of CLC are invited to be a part of Christ Lutheran Women. The ladies’ group meets September to June *normally* on the second Tuesday of the month at 12:00 noon in the Shepherd Room (see September change, below). This a time for fellowship and discussing how to support the Gospel ministry at our church, the community and beyond. Due to a schedule conflict , the next meeting will be on *September 19th*, which is the third rather than second Tuesday. For more information, please speak with Sandy Smith.

WWA-ARC

Washington-Warren-Albany ARC’s community pre-vocational program will use CLC beginning September. One staff and 2-3 participants will meet at the church, gather in an available room to quickly discuss the upcoming schedule, and then head out for their day. In the afternoon they will return the church to wait for transportation home. This is a very low-impact use of our facility that meets a very important need for WWA-ARC.

NEW BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

The next Bible study will focus on 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy, and Titus with classes starting in October. The days and times will be announced in coming weeks.

SAVE THE DATE: REFORMATION SERVICE, NOVEMBER 5

A service of commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation has been scheduled for Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 PM. at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Colonie. Atlantic District Bishop Derek Lecakes will preach.

A MESSAGE FROM SHARON CALKA

I wish to thank everyone for their cards, telephone calls, visits and most especially their prayers during my most recent health problems. I am happy to report that everything is fine and I’m looking forward to the fall and preparation for Reformation Sunday.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY - JULY 2017

Income	\$ 102,598.90
Expenses	\$ 98,094.79
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Difference	\$ 4,504.11

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Brittany Fahd	Carol Fike	Hilda Griessel	Herta Haupt
Joe Henstenberg	Joe Henstenberg	Reggie Jakubec	Hazel Lanza
Dorothy Van Deusen	Lori Zeh		

Family & Friends

Holly Bakes	(friend of Judy Zamurs)
Ed Beutel	(brother of Bea White)
Elizabeth Beers	(sister of Mark Hendricks)
Raymond Beers	(brother-in-law of Mark & Sue Hendricks)
Katelyn Benedetto	(niece of Mike & Karen Benedetto)
Ed Burrell	(father of Madison Murray)
Erin Carhart	(niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)
Jennylee Carman	(sister of Loretta Flanders)
Robert Carman	(brother-in-law of Loretta Flanders)
Andy Chainyk	(brother of Davia LaChapelle)
Jean Davis	(sister of Anne MacIntosh)
Niko DiNovo & Family	(friends of Madison Murray)
Linda Fitzgerald	(sister of Barbara Kunkel)
Evan Gall	(friend of Pastor Russ & Carole Craig)
Sharon Graser	(daughter-in-law of Jean Graser)
Karen Greene	(daughter of Jan Bentsen)
Jackie Gregory	(friend of the Bliven family)
Kay Kellerman	(friend of Sandy Smith)
JoAnn Kniskern	(sister-in-law of Judy Bliven)
Ann Lawton	(mother of Sue Hendricks)
Alan Maki	(son of Gloria & Brian Maki)
Francis Mathis	(sister-in-law of Alan & Carol Fike)
Harold Mathis	(brother of Carol Fike)
Marilyn Pergl	(sister of Loretta Flanders)
Vicky Quay	(friend of Congregation)
Maryann Raymond	(friend of Lois Gerhardt)
Bob Sloop	(friend of Lorraine Urbano)
Dee Yates	(sister of Lorraine Urbano)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Gloria Maki
	Timothy Schildt
7	Richard Smith
21	Brian Flood
26	William Faulkner

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES: SEPTEMBER 2017

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (3 September 2017)

Jeremiah 15:15–21 + Romans 12:9–21 + Matthew 16:21–28

The Glory of God Is the Passion and Cross of Christ Jesus

After St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord “*began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised*” (Matt. 16:21). Upon hearing this “theology of the cross,” Simon Peter stumbled into a satanic “theology of glory.” But the glory of God is revealed in the Passion and cross of His incarnate Son. The faithful prophets, such as Jeremiah, suffered persecution and rejection in anticipation of Jesus’ cross. Yet the Lord did not abandon them; He remembered them, and He was with them to deliver them (Jer. 15:15–20). By His cross, Jesus has redeemed the world, and in His resurrection, He has vindicated all who trust in Him. Thus, the Christian life is a discipleship of self-sacrificing love. Since Christ Jesus has reconciled us to God, we “*live peaceably with all*” (Rom. 12:18). By the certainty of His cross and resurrection, we “*rejoice in hope,*” and we are “*patient in tribulation*” and “*constant in prayer*” (Rom. 12:12).

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (10 September 2017)

Ezekiel 33:7–9 + Romans 13:1–10 + Matthew 18:1–20

Living as Humble Little Children of the Father

True greatness is not self-sufficient strength, but humility like that of a little child. The greatness of childlike faith receives all good things as gracious gifts from our Father in heaven. Apart from such faith, “*you will never enter the kingdom of heaven,*” but whoever is humbled like a little child will be “*the greatest in the kingdom of heaven*” (Matt. 18:3–4). Though in our sin we deserve to be “*drowned in the depth of the sea*” (Matt. 18:6), we have instead been drowned (“buried”) with Christ in Baptism and then raised to the new, humble life of a child of God. The Lord sends His watchman to warn us with a word from His mouth, in order that we may not die in our iniquity, but be turned from our pride and selfishness to live (Ezek. 33:7–9). Thus, we live in humility and faith before God as well as in love for our neighbor, which “*is the fulfilling of the law*” (Rom. 13:10). In the reverent fear of God, we do no harm to our neighbor, but we “*pay to all what is owed to them*” (Rom. 13:7) and we “*owe no one anything, except to love each other*” (Rom. 13:8).

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (17 September 2017)

Genesis 50:15–21 + Romans 14:1–12 + Matthew 18:21–35

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have “*mercy on your fellow servant*” and “*forgive your brother from your heart*” (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we “*are the Lord’s*” (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will “*stand before the judgment seat of God,*” we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also “*will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand*” (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends “*to bring it about that many people should be kept alive*” (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: “*I will provide for you and your little ones*” (Gen. 50:21).

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (24 September 2017)

Isaiah 55:6–9 + Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30 + Matthew 20:1–16

Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Those who are sent as “*laborers for his vineyard*” (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear “*the burden of the day and the scorching heat*” on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that “*he may be found*” (Is. 55:6), “*have compassion*” and “*abundantly pardon*” (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, “*whether by life or by death*” (Phil. 1:20), by “*fruitful labor*” (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are “*worthy of the gospel*” (Phil. 1:27).

SEPTEMBER 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
27 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	28 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	29 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	30 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am Communion	31 7:00am TSL All Day	1 <i>Office closed</i> TSL CLOSED 7:30pm AA	2 3:30pm Friendship Service
3 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	4 Labor Day <i>Office closed</i> TSL CLOSED	5 7:30pm TSL All Day 8:00am ARC 12:00pm Al Anon 2:00pm ARC	6 8:00am ARC 11:00am Communion 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	7 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	8 <i>Office closed</i> 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	9
10 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	11 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC 7:00pm Council	12 8:00am ARC 12:00pm Al Anon 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	13 8:00am ARC 11:00am Communion 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	14 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	15 <i>Office closed</i> 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	16 3:30pm Friendship Service
17 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	18 <i>Office closed</i> 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	19 8:00am ARC 12:00pm CLC Women 12:00pm Al Anon 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	20 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i> 8:00am ARC 11:00am Communion 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	21 7:30pm TSL All Day 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC	22 <i>Office closed</i> 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	23 12:00pm Apostolic Church Wedding
24 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	25 <i>Office closed</i> 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	26 8:00am ARC 12:00pm Al Anon 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	27 8:00am ARC 11:00am Communion 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	28 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL	29 8:00am ARC 2:00pm ARC 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	30

All newsletter articles and announcements must be submitted to Madison by the 20th of each month.

Date	Communion Assistant	Lector
3	Sandy Smith	Deacon Tom Craig
10	Joe Fahd	Joe Fahd
17	Mark Hendricks	Mark Hendricks
24	Linda Halbrend	Linda Halbrend